the sense of road safety among various road users and children.

Identification of ports for exports/Imports under Advance Licence Scheme

2526. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government Customs Collectorate had identified five small ports in Veraval, Sikka, Jaffarabad and Navlakhi in Saurashtra and Mandvi in Kutch more reasonable for exports and imports under Advance Licences Scheme;

(b) if so, whether Central Government have been urged to develop these ports which are more beneficial to the State as well as to the country;

(c) whether Central Government have taken any steps to improve the ports and provide facilities of Rail, STD. and drinking water etc; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Central Government for development of these ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of Gujarat have initiated action to develop these Ports

(d) Government of Gujarat has taken up development work for improving/increasing Port facilities from their own resources as per requiements of the trade.

Road Accidents in India

2527. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a road accident every minute in India and every 10 minutes one person dies on the road; and

(b) if so, what enforcement strategies based on the scientific study of accidents and causative factors are being planned in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is taking all possible steps to control road accidents. For this purpose, a special cell has been created in the Ministry of Surface Transport. Police Departments have been taking various steps including awareness campaigns to check road accidents and these measures will continue to be taken in the future also. The Central Government also provides financial assistance to the State Govts. for strengthening their awareness/publicity campaigns. The Government has also provided driving training Simulators to four States. Besides, it is also proposed to supply Vehicle Testing Equipments and Portable Weigh Bridges to some States. The State Governments have also been requested to set up Committees at the State and District levels in terms of Section 215 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988. Besides it, the steps taken|being taken to minimise the accidents are given in the Statement.

Statement

The steps taken/being taken include—

1. The M.V. Act, 1988 and the Rules framed thereunder provide for stricter requirements in respect of issuance of driving licences, and stringent penalties for offences.

2. Formal training in a driving school is made a pre-requisite for issuance of licence to drive transport vehicles.

3. Maximum safe laden weights have been prescribed for trucks including light commercial vehicles.

4. Maximum speed limits have been prescribed for all vehicles except light motor vehicles.

5. Uniform intervals for checking the fitness of vehicles have been prescribed throughout the country.